

RS - INT
REGENERATION
Fp-10 (Payette)

April 24, 1941

Establishment Report (Spring, 1941)

PONDEROSA PINE SEEDING-PLANTING EXPERIMENT
IN PHILLIPS CREEK BURN, PAYETTE NATIONAL FOREST

The spring planting on plots 1, 2, 3, and 6 was done on April 23, 1941 by Schopmeyer, Mowat, Ketchie, and three ERA employees. The remaining work on plots 4 and 5 was done by Schopmeyer, Ketchie, and the ERA men on April 24. Weather was fair and working conditions favorable. Soil was fresh to moist as a result of winter precipitation and rains early in April. Snow was gone from all exposures at this elevation. The planting stock was in fair condition as a whole; some seedlings had dry tips as a result of winter drying (conditions especially bad for it last winter); the worst of these were discarded, as were all seedlings with dried roots (chiefly the result of heeling-in McCall stock in too large bunches.

The one row of screened spots on Plot 5 (Row #4) was seeded at this time. Because of the advanced stage of germination on south slopes and the possibly limited value of unprotected seeding, the rows scheduled for seeding without cones on plots 2 and 5 (which we did not have time for last fall) were not seeded at all. Likewise the rows on plots 2 and 5 which had failed to receive their fall planting were not planted in the spring--the supply of good stock was inadequate and they were not needed for balanced representation of spring planting. The three spring rows were planted on each of these as on other plots, however.

All seed spots on south slope plots (1, 2, and 3) were inspected and germination tallied at this time. Germination was apparently well advanced, though probably not complete on all spots, on this exposure, but had hardly begun on the north exposure plots. The majority of seed spots on the north slope had suffered either from soil washing into the spots or eroding away. Some difficulty with soil sloughing had been anticipated because of the "shelf" construction and the extra soil disturbance necessitated by frozen ground, as mentioned in the fall establishment report. Because it was considered abnormal, the screened seed spots on the north were "repaired" by filling in soil where necessary to make the screen rodent-proof or by scraping away washed-in soil down to original surface level (this could generally be done without disturbing the seeds.) This is a problem that may have to be faced on steep slopes, especially in fresh burns, for considerable erosion was occurring even where the soil had not been disturbed. Where distinct "shelving" is practiced, it may be necessary in some cases to give attention to drainage. Of course, it would not normally be so bad as in this case. The unprotected seed spots were not "repaired", as it was too difficult to tell just where the seed lay and how much erosion had occurred. They may thus show up to poorer advantage on north slope plots because of this.

Very little trouble from frost heaving of screens was in evidence at this time. Special effort had been made to set the screen cones solidly and deeper than in previous seedings.

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